

**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

**Area Unique Identifier:** CO-060-014

**Acreage:** 23.3 and 291.9

**Is the area of sufficient size?**

Yes ☒ No ☐

**Description**

The two segments of BLM land identified as CO-060-014 are adjacent to the Handies Peak Wilderness Study Area (WSA), meeting the size requirement criteria for both. The northern border consists of private land/patented mining claims and the Handies Peak WSA with the remaining southern, eastern and western borders all adjacent to the Handies Peak WSA. This parcel was excluded from the Handies Peak WSA due to "the presence of constructed ways" (they are now closed roads for hiking only with thick vegetation regenerating along Upper Snare Creek) during the previous inventory conducted by the Montrose BLM in 1979.

**(1) Does the area appear to be natural?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

**Description**

Densely wooded spruce/aspen stands in the lower elevation eastern section with high alpine tundra in the western majority of the parcel, at and above 12,000 ft. Grasses/wildflowers and rocky, high mountain terrain dominate the majority of the two segments with hiking and access to patented mining claims as the main human uses. Within this area is a 1.04 acre portion of wetlands with a medium potential to be a fen.

**(2) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

**Description**

CO-060-014 is surrounded by the Handies Peak WSA and the only access to the parcel by road is 3309b, combined with the rugged topography providing outstanding opportunities for solitude.

**Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

**Description**

This parcel provides opportunities for unconfined and primitive recreation such as hiking, backpacking, hunting/fishing and wildlife viewing. Snare Creek trail ascends to a high mountain lake at the western end of CO-060-014. Estimated  $\pm$  50 visitors annually hike to Snare Creek.

**(3) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value)?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

**Description**

There are many scenic views of the surrounding San Juan Mountains. Also, the 1.04 acre area of wetlands that has the medium potential to be a fen contains an ecological supplemental value and there is a low level of lynx habitat.

## Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-014

### Result of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive or unconfined type of recreation? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☒ Yes ☐ No

### Check one

  X   The area, or portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

       The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

### Prepared by (team members):

John Millea

Corrie Barbour

(Name, Title, Date)

### Reviewed by District or Field Manager:

Name: Brian S. George Title: Field Manager

Date: 7/24/13

\*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.